

THE CRITIC.

EVERY EVENING

BY THE

WASHINGTON CRITIC COMPANY,

OFFICE:

943 D Street Northwest.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

By mail (postage prepaid), 1 year.....\$3.75

1 month.....\$.30

Carries in the city, 1 month.....\$.30

Address

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WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 15, 1890.

AMERICAN ENTHUSIASTIC CORPORATION is in progress over the libel of "Asrael," a new opera recently produced at the Metropolitan Opera House of New York. It seems that the management of that temple of the muses not only employs gifted linguists to translate the German French or Italian dialogue of this opera performed there, but permits these translations to be hawked about the theatre by shrill-voiced touts in the guise of human boys. A theatregoer, however, writes to the *New York Times* and tells his woes in angry protest against the translations in the case of "Asrael." He admits that audiences do not expect much of operatic libretti, and still less of the translation thereof; but he declares that "Asrael" falls short, very far short, indeed, even of their modest demands. He offers gems, called here and there at random, by way of illustrating his disgust. For example, here is a phrase from what seems to be a demimonde of the wicked baritone:

"Yet you ask, their souls where?"

"Insult and disgrace due them."

"Be the wind against wallsraging horn."

Leaving the now detected villain to write in his misery, the complainant goes on to a passage which has the general air of an epithet on a scoundrel who has recently become a corpse:

"No kind aid."

To the poor soul,

And the next day,

On that very place,

Cold and dead laid."

The text might have added "And served him right," but it doesn't. Then follow a series of extracts representing the testings of different characters in the cast, reproof, amazement, torture, supplication and assorted sentiments, all couched in the weird and most peculiar vernacular a few samples:

"Yes, thou lovest him, that shows me the insatiable baseness."

"Such themes estuate light heaven knows not."

"Hat o' e' how in the bosom it bolts and cooks and burns!"

"Oh, God, your child condone, and let me go home alone."

"And judges kindly."

For when my lips have said only."

"It is true what I broughton."

"Friendly is now the altar shown."

"Never has my eye seen incomparable wonder witness."

We do not wonder at the *Times* correspondent's disgust. It is not enough to be disturbed and infuriated, by shrill boys screaming "Opera girls," "The girls of the opera," "The girls of the world," paying twenty-five cents to get rid of them, than you have bought a collection of mandolin and inchoate gibberish that would disgrace a lunatic asylum. It seems strange that New York, which indulges such large pretensions in the matter of civilization, should tolerate an abuse so outrageous and so indefensible.

THE STRANGERS down in South Carolina have an idea that "retribution will come." Interpreted, that means that they will return.

IS SENATOR VEST ready yet to publish Mr. CLEVELAND's letter in which that gentleman announced his conversion to the free coinage of silver?

REFERRING TO THE DEPART OF Senator HAMPTON, the Charleston *News* and *Courier* of Friday last, said:

The war is over in South Carolina. Wade Hampton has been discharged from the service of the country to make room for others who are more valuable.

Take the old gray coat out of the closet and look at it for the last time before it is thrown into the ragbag—it represented something more than a coat.

Throw the battered old coat into the ash barrel—it meant something twenty years ago.

The fatigued old battle-flag, under whose wing you have fought, you, perhaps, followed

Hampton in every war, law and let the flames consume it. All these things are but dust and ashes. The agony is over.

There are no more battles and trials, but dust and ashes. The Confederate soldier has satisfied his days in South Carolina. It was only a dream.

It is just such wind, rain as, this that prompts innocent people north of the Potomac and Ohio rivers to believe that the South still laments the Confederacy, and justifies them in believing it. The able editor no doubt meant nothing more than a burst of sophomore gush. His idea was simply to spill over the wounds of HAMPTON's defeat a little of the motion suit of his eloquence. But this kind of stuff gets passed around, and thousands who do not understand the situation drink it in and swallow it sotely. The editor of the *News and Courier* knows, if he has ever a speaking acquaintance with public sentiment, that intelligent people at the South do not lament the Confederacy and would not have it back if they could. He knows, unless he is singularly blind to what is going on about him, that if the question of restoring the Confederacy were submitted to the whites of means and education at the South, it would be repudiated by a practically unanimous vote. Knowing all this, then, for it is notorious as the moonday sun, why does he print such mischievous slush as that which we have quoted above? It does no good at home where everybody takes it in a Pickwickian sense, and it misrepresents the Southern people abroad where it is supposed to mean something.

Mr. J. G. BARRETTES of Hartford, Conn., says he will undertake to raise the Capitol and turn it around. A great many people have come here thinking they would turn the Capitol around, but it still fails to the East.

PARNELL BROKE DOWN last Saturday, but how about Parnell?

GENERAL WARRIOR, the famous advocate of silver, believes that it will be impossible to elect Mr. CLEVELAND to the Presidency in 1892 because of his heresy as to silver. But has not Mr. CLEVELAND been converted? We have been given to understand that Senator VEST performed that ceremony some months ago, and that he now holds the ex-President's formal resignation of all his original errors. If such be the case, why does not Senator VEST produce the document and make it public?

Cleveland right on the record? There is much in what General WARRIOR says. The silver sentiment grows stronger every day.

It grows, perhaps, at a greater rate than does the tariff feeling, and it is certainly a more intense and more personal feeling than that of, or, indeed, any other now involved in politics. If it be so, therefore, that Mr. CLEVELAND has repudiated the monetaristic scheme within

the party and is at last in accord with the movement of which General WARRIOR is a prominent representative, the fact ought to be made known as soon as possible. In truth, it cannot be made known too soon, if Mr. CLEVELAND expects to lead the Democratic hosts to victory in 1892.

The *Post* has our best bow and most bewitching smile, to say nothing of our grateful acknowledgment, for the following friendly mention in its column of yesterday:

The Critic's latest and best step, under the new management, is the donning of a new and very becoming dress, in which it appears last evening. Its next move will be to increase its circulation, the secret of which for our contemporaries is evidently encouraging. With ample resources at its command, business capacity down stairs and editorial ability upstairs, there is no reason why it should not prove itself a success. It certainly has a big enough field, if it is only worked for what it is worth.

DEFENDS PERFECTLY HAPPIY. They can fight at every political gathering over there now without having to tackle the pols.

THE DEMOCRATIC PAPER are doing their level best to drive Senator-elect BROWN, of South Carolina, clean out of the Democratic camp into the Republican lines by pursuing him with injurious innuendos and stories calculated to bring him into contempt. The latest is that he was engaged in a duel in his college days at Princeton and acted the part of a coward. These stories, if they have any influence on the new Senator, can only make him hostile to the political party which he will naturally hold responsible for them.

MR. JAY GOULD says: "If I were President of the United States or a leader of the Republican party I think I could succeed in having some of the Southern States divided." We don't doubt it. He would do it if he had to buy a State "bodociously" and divide it into little pieces.

THINGS ARE BEGINNING to look badly for DAVID HEALY and the other secessionists. It seems that PARSELL has the toughs with him and on this side of the mountains generally win. Look at Tammany!

PERSONAL.

COUNSELOR J. W. AVERY, Senator Joe Brown's private secretary, is at the Metropolitan.

MR. ROSELL P. LOGAN, a popular young journalist, who has been connected with both the *Post* and *The Critic*, has gone to Charleston, S. C., where he will assume the editorship of the *People's Sun*.

He leaves a large party of friends in Washington who will wish him success in his new field of labor.

STEPHENACK, according to Boston testimony, is reported to know that his first lecture in America is to be at that city.

THEATRE.—The *Post* and *Critic* are reporting that the *Metropolitan* will open on January 15.

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